

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 remain active in this, Claims 1, 5 and 12 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-4 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Dusse et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,647,260 B2, hereinafter called "Dusse") in view of Coppinger et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0046862 A1, hereinafter called "Coppinger")., Claims 5-7 and 9-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dusse, Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dusse, and further in view of Wang (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0160745 A1)., Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dusse and further in view of Coppinger

In light of the several grounds for rejection, independent Claims 1, 5 and 12 have been amended to clarify what is believed to be a patentably distinguishing feature of the present invention to better define the claimed invention. Support for the changes to these claims is believed to be found in the application as originally filed, and no new matter has been added.

Briefly recapitulating, as cited in "DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART" section of the originally-filed specification, there are demands from a user for minimize a communication fee to be paid a communication carrier at the time of obtaining original local information (e.g., information on goods etc., of a shop where the user is currently located) (see page 1 line 31 - page 2 line 1). There are further demands from a local information providing side for realizing more convenient systems in which the original local information can be provided only with respect to registered members (see page 2 lines 13-19).

In view of the above actual condition, it is an object of the present invention to provide a portable terminal, a local radio server and a subscription sever for realizing an information distribution system using a local radio network (see page 2 lines 23-26). More specifically, the present invention focuses on sending original local information provided by the local radio server to only users who are registered members through the local radio network for a short-distance communication by means of the portable terminal so that the users can minimize a communication fee at the time of obtaining the information.

In order to achieve the above object, an information distribution system comprises a portable terminal 1, a Bluetooth base station (local server) 2 and a subscription server 3. The portable terminal 1 is equipped with a Bluetooth interface 17 and a public network interface 19. The portable terminal 1 can receive a communication service by selectively utilizing Bluetooth communications and public network communications according to time, place and occasion. The Bluetooth base station 2 is provided at a location where general public gathers, for providing information (especially original local information, such as transfer information or time table information in the case of a train or a bus, goods information or discount information in the case of a shop, or more general information such as news, weather forecast, traffic or accident information, etc.) with respect to the portable terminal 1 through the Bluetooth communications. Here, it should be noted that the Bluetooth Communication is a short-distance communication employing 2.4GHz band radio wave in comparison with the public network and allows the registered members to minimize a communication fee in comparison with a conventional mobile communication) public telephone network), (see page 1 line 23 - page 2 line 7). The subscription server 3 is connected to the portable terminal 1 and the Bluetooth base station 2 through the public network communications (see page 5 line 31 - page 7 line 28 and FIGS. 1, 2).

The portable terminal 1 sends an access request for original local information provided by the Bluetooth base station 2, to the Bluetooth base station 2 through the Bluetooth communications along with a terminal ID for identifying the portable terminal 1, when accessing the Bluetooth base station 2 (S1). If the terminal ID is not registered in the Bluetooth base station 2, the Bluetooth base station 2 sends a membership subscription guidance, which describes an address of the subscription server 3 therein, for urging the portable terminal 1 to carry out a membership subscription procedure, to the portable terminal 1 through the Bluetooth communications (S2-4). Upon receiving the membership subscription guidance, the portable terminal 1 sends the membership subscription request to the subscription server 3 through the public network communications along with the terminal ID, with reference to the membership subscription guidance (S5). Subsequently, a necessary subscription procedure is carried out between the portable terminal 1 and the subscription server 3 through the public network communications (S6). When the subscription procedure is completed, the subscription server 3 notifies the fact that the portable terminal 1 with this terminal ID has newly become a member, to the Bluetooth base station 2 through the public network communications (S7). Upon receiving this notification, the Bluetooth base station 2 registers the notified terminal ID therein (S8) (see page 8 line 17 - page 10 line 24 and FIG. 5).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), which is based at least in part in the finding stated in the outstanding Official Action that Dusse discloses a portable terminal (mobile device) in an information distribution system (web based provisioning distribution system) using a local server (Proxy Server device incorporated with provision server) accessible through a local radio network (airnet with common wireless access protocol such as WAP) and a subscription server (service server) accessible through a public network (landnet), and the finding that Coppinger teaches a

registration process of a programmable wireless device including the steps of sending a registration request to a server (subscription server) and receiving the software from the subscription server such as executable instructions (server access membership subscription guidance) to enable the wireless device to operate on a particular wireless network for execution to support communication between the wireless device and the service server.

Applicant, however, submits that Dusse and Coppinger fail to teach or suggest a portable terminal configured to receive a server access membership subscription guidance, which describes an address of a subscription server therein, for urging the portable terminal to carry out a membership subscription procedure through a local radio network for a short-distance communication and then send a server access membership subscription request through a public network for a long-distance communication to the address of the subscription,

On the contrary, Dusse employs airnet 104 and landnet 118 both corresponding to the public network of the present invention as a communication path.

In particular, Dusse employs a registration kernel 664 not carrying out a registration procedure for allowing a user to become a member in order to minimize a communication fee at the time of obtaining the original local information, but forwarding acknowledgments regarding user's registration and provisioning content 672 (e.g. passwords security information, etc.) to provisioning server 630.

On the other hand, Dusse focuses on sending carrier's and service provider's sensitive provisioning information to users who are registered in database without compromising the information (see col.1 lines 62-67). Dusse discloses airnet 104 and landnet 118. The outstanding Official Action asserts that the airnet 104 is essentially identical to the local radio network of the present invention. However, airnet 104 is a conventional mobile communication (public telephone network) because airnet 104 may be, for example, a

cellular digital packet data network (CDPD), a Global System for Mobile (GSM) network, a Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) network, a Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) network, a Personal Digital Cellular (PDC) network or a Personal Handy-phone System, (PHS) network (see col.4 lines 29-35). Therefore, Dusse, does not disclose the local radio network that allows users to minimize a communication fee in comparison with the conventional mobile communication.

Further, Dusse discloses a notification message. The outstanding Official Action asserts that the notification message is essentially identical to the membership subscription guidance of the present invention. However, the notification message is information required to only communicate with limited access commercial server devices (see col.7 lines 29-39). Therefore, Dusse does not disclose the membership subscription guidance that is information required to become a member in order to minimize a communication fee in comparison with the conventional mobile communication.

Furthermore, Dusse discloses a registration kernel 664. The outstanding Official Action asserts that the registration kernel 664 is essentially identical to the membership subscription procedure processing unit of the present invention. However, the registration kernel 664 only forwards acknowledgements regarding user's registration and provisioning content 672 (e.g. passwords security information, etc.) to provisioning server 630 (see col.7 lines 56-60). Therefore, Dusse does not disclose the membership subscription procedure processing unit that carries out a registration procedure for allowing a user to become a member in order to minimize a communication fee at the time of obtaining the original local information.

Coppinger on the other hand employs software not for using the portable terminal to carry out a membership subscription procedure through the local radio network, but for performing instructions that characteristics of the wireless device and its current

configuration. Coppinger focuses on sending programs and data to users who are registered in a content server so as to improve security (see page 7 [0056]). Coppinger discloses software. The outstanding Official Action asserts that the software is essentially identical to the server access membership subscription guidance of the present invention. However, the software performs instructions that characteristics of a wireless device and its current configuration, including determine memory capacity, serial number or an identification (e.g., username or password) of a user (or intended user) of the wireless device (see page 8 [0060]).

In view of the above-noted deficiencies identified in the outstanding Official Action, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding rejection of Claim 1 has been traversed.

Regarding claim 5, the outstanding Official Action states the finding that Dusse discloses a local server (proxy server device incorporated with provisioning server) in an information distribution system (web based provisioning distribution system) using a portable terminal (mobile device) accessible through a local radio network (airnet with common wireless access protocol such as WAP) and a subscription server (service server) accessible through a public network (landnet), and that Dusse discloses a membership subscription guidance for urging the portable terminal to carry out a membership subscription procedure (notification message which may be comprised of software modules and information required to communicate with limited access commercial server devices).

Applicant however submits that Dusse fails to teach or suggest a local server configured to send a server access membership subscription guidance, which describes an address of a subscription server therein, for urging a portable terminal to carry out a membership subscription procedure through a local radio network for a short-distance communication.

As above noted, Dusse employs airnet 104 and landnet 118 both corresponding to the public network of the present invention as a communication path.

Dusse employs the notification message that is not information required to become a member in order to minimize a communication fee at the time of obtaining original local information, but information required to only communicate with limited access commercial server devices.

Regarding claim 12, the outstanding Official Action states the finding that Dusse discloses a subscription server in an information distribution system (web based provisioning distribution system) using a portable terminal (mobile device) accessible through a public network (landnet) and a local server (proxy server device incorporated with provisioning server) for providing original local information which is accessible through a local radio network (airnet with common wireless access protocol such as WAP), and that Dusse discloses the subscription server (registration kernel) configured to carry out a membership subscription procedure in response to a server access membership subscription request.

Applicant however submits that Dusse fails to teach or suggest a subscription server configured to carry out a membership subscription procedure in response to a server access membership subscription request for accessing a local server, from a portable terminal or the local server.

Therefore, Dusse and Coppinger do not disclose the server access membership subscription guidance for urging the portable terminal to carry out a membership subscription procedure through the local radio network.

From the above viewpoint, Dusse and Coppinger fail to teach or suggest sending original local information to users who are registered members through the local radio network so that the users can minimize a communication fee at the time of obtaining the information. As a result, Dusse and Coppinger belong to a different technical concept from the present invention.

Summarizing, Applicants respectfully submit Dusse, Coppinger and Wang do not teach or suggest the following technical features:

(1) a portable terminal configured to receive a sever access membership subscription guidance, which describes an address of a subscription server therein, for urging the portable terminal to carry out a membership subscription procedure through a local radio network for a short-distance communication and then send a server access membership subscription request through a public network for a long-distance communication to the address of the subscription server;

(2) a local sever configured to send a sever access membership subscription guidance, which describes an address of a subscription server therein, for urging a portable terminal to carry out a membership subscription procedure thorough a local radio network for a short-distance communication; and

(3) a subscription server configured to carry out a membership subscription procedure in response to a sever access membrership subscription request for accessing a local sever, from a portable terminal or the server.

The present invention focuses on sending original local information provided by a local server to only users who are registered members through a local radio network for a short-distance communication. Therefore, the registered members can minimize a communication fee at the time of obtaining the information because the information is provided to them through not a public network but a local radio network. If a user who is not the registered members wants to obtain the original local information, he/she needs to receive a membership subscription guidance sent from the local server through the local radio network and then send a membership subscription request for accessing the local server to a subscription sever (or the local sever) through a public network for a long-distance

communication (or the local radio network), with reference to the membership subscription guidance.

On the other hand, Dusse does not focus sending original local information to users who are registered members through the local radio network so that the users can minimize a communication fee at the time of obtaining the information. Users who use Dusse's system cannot minimize a communication fee because Dusse employs airnet 104 and landnet 118 both corresponding to the public network as a communication path. Further, Dusse does not teach or suggest the membership subscription guidance. The outstanding Official Action asserts that Dusses's notification message is essentially identical to the membership subscription guidance. However, the notification message does not correspond to either the membership subscription guidance or the membership subscription request because the notification message is not information required to become a member in order to minimize a communication fee at the time of obtaining the original local information but information required to only communicate with limited access commercial server devices. Also, neither Coppinger nor Wang teach sending original local information to users who are registered members through the local radio network so that the users can minimize a communication fee at the time of obtaining the information.

Thus, in view of the above discussions, it is respectfully submitted that the present amendments to independent Claims 1, 5 and 12 clarify patentably distinguishing features of the present invention not taught by the prior art, and accordingly, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. Claims 1, 5 and 12, as well as the dependent claims 2-4, 6-11 and 13-16 are therefore believed to be patentably distinguishing over the cited prior art.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above comments, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be

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in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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